

d. (Original) **condensate from flooding the system and blocking the air flow,**
means of adjusting the rate of air flow through the compost, to enable matching the cooling caused by the forced aeration to the rate that the microbes are generating surplus microbial metabolic heat.

e. (NEW) **The system does NOT require that the compost be in any kind of vessel, container, or enclosure of any sort.**

(This amendment was previously filed and is not new at this time. The box shows the claims, as previously amended)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The screenshot shows a software interface for searching patent applications. At the top, there's a toolbar with various icons like Text Edits, Show, and drain. Below the toolbar is a barcode and the identifier "US 20030024686A1". The main area displays patent information:

(19) United States
(12) Patent Application Publication (10) Pub. No.: US 2003/0024686 A1
(12) Ouellette (43) Pub. Date: Feb. 6, 2003

Below this, there's a section labeled "(54) INNOVATION SEARCH SYSTEM" which is mostly redacted. Under "(76)", it says "Adobe Acrobat" and shows a message: "Acrobat has finished searching the document. No matches were found." There are also sections for "(21)" and "(22)" which are mostly blank. At the bottom, there's a "Related U.S. Application Data" section and a note about a provisional application. On the right side, there's some redacted text describing compositions for renewable heat energy.

Search results from Searching Ouellette patent for the word "drain"

The below comments are copied from the previous response and are not new.

The addition of section "e" under claim #1, is to clearly differentiate this technology from that in Shindo, US 5587320, and McNelly, 6524848, both of which are **based on In-Vessel** composting systems. All of their claims reference In-Vessel composting systems.

Neither the McNelly or Ouellette patents make any reference to the need for drains from the aeration ducts, that both drain off condensate, and do not allow air to leak. Since large scale systems can easily have over 10,000 gallons a day of condensate in this part of the system, these drains are absolutely necessary for the systems / technology to work.

My technology eliminates the cost and other limiting features of In-Vessel composting systems. In my system, the aeration can be based on aeration veins built into a composting pad, with the air being pulled down through the compost, being heated as it passes through the compost, and then that hot air is pulled through the aeration manifold, to the blower, with the heat exchanger in the aeration manifold, either before or after the blower.

There are important composting process management procedures which can not be readily achieved when the compost is enclosed in any sort of vessel. I hold the specifics of these procedures as ***Trade Secrets***. The key as far as this patent application is concerned, is that both the Shindo & McNelly patents are based on **In-Vessel** composting systems and my technology does not require that the compost be in any sort of vessel, container or other form of enclosure, making my process a major improvement because it eliminated the cost and other limiting features of In-Vessel composting.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.